

Message Text

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SUBJ: 1977 EGYPTIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY(ASRT)
CONFERENCE/OPENING OF REMOTE SENSING CENTER

PASS NSF, AID, NAS

1. SUMMARY: THE 1977 ASRT ANNUAL CONFERENCE WAS HELD IN CAIRO DEC.18-20. OPENING SESSION WAS ATTENDED BY VICE PRESIDENT MUBARAK, PRIME MINISTER SALEM, GENERAL GAMASSY, SEVERAL CABINETMEMBERS, SOME 500 EGYPTIAN SCIENTISTS AND FOREIGN GUESTS. AMBASSADOR, USAID/C DEP. DIR. SCIATT AND USAID S&T OFFICER ATTENDED OPENING. VICE PRESIDENT READ PRESIDENT SADAT'S SPEECH WHICH STRESSED THE DELIBERATE NATURE OF SADAT'S STEPS TOWARDS PEACE - REMOTE SENSING CENTER WAS FORMALLY OPENED BY MIN. OF ED AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH HILMY DURING CONFERENCE. ISRAELI JOURNALISTS ALSO LOOKED IN ON CONFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

2. CONFERENCE WAS OPENED BY ASRT PRES. ABU AL AZM. INVITED SPEAKERS WERE:

MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH HILMI
PROF. IOSIF TRIPSA - VICE CHAIRMAN, ROMANIAN NAT. SCIENCE COUNCIL.
PROF. WADIE HABASHI - PRES. NAT. RESEARCH COUNCIL OF SUDAN
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PROF. ALBERT BOUTROS - DIR. GEN, ROYAL SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY OF JORDAN.

3. PEACE WAS THE OPENING CHORD, AS IT IS IN ALMOST ALL MTGS. OF SOCIETIES AND GROUPS THESE DAYS AND ALL SPEAKERS PAID TRIBUTE TO PRESIDENT SADAT. VP REC'VD PLAQUE AND SCROLL FROM 20,000 EGYPTIAN SCIENTISTS HONORING SADAT'S INITIATIVES. MUBARAK'S SPEECH

EMPHASIZED THAT ALL OF SADAT INITIATIVES WERE PLANNED CAREFULLY THOUGHT OUT AND DELIBERATE. OF COURSE, ALL PAID TRIBUTE TO ROLE & ACHIEVEMENTS OF SCIENCE, BUT THIS WAS CLEAR "SECOND LEAD". ABU AL ZM IN SLIGHT CHORD CHANGE ALSO REFERRED TO SGT INPUTS INTO EGYPT'S MILITARY DEVELOPMENT.

4. HABASHI SPOKE OF "INTEGRATION" (IN TRANSLATION) OF EGYPT AND SUDAN AS AGREED TO BY SADAT AND NIMEIRY AND OF S&T INPUTS NEEDED FOR BILATERAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. ABU AL AZM AND HILMI GAVE PROMINENT MENTION TO US COOPERATION IN S&T. MSGS. OF SUPPORT FOR SADAT PEACE INITIATIVE AND REGRET AT NOT BEING ABLE TO ATTEND FROM PRES. US ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, DR. PHILLIP HANDLER AND FORMER US PRESEDENTIAL SCIENCE ADVISOR, DR. H. GUYFORD STEVER WERE READ. CASH AWARDS FOR ACHIEVEMENT WERE GIVEN TO LARGE NUMBER OF SCIENTIST AND RESEARCHERS, INCLUDING ONE OF \$ 2000. GIVEN BY SAUDI ARABIA.

5. CONFERENCE WORKING SESSIONS WERE CLOSED, AND RECOMMENDATIONS NOT YET PUBLISHED. HOWEVER, ASRT VP FAYEZ TOLD SCIATT THAT COORDINATION OF S&T IN EGYPT RECEIVED POLICY LEVEL ATTENTION AND THAT PM SALEM HAD REQUESTED A "CONFERENCE OR THE USES OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY IN PEACE"; TO BE HELD IN CAIRO IN FEB.78. THIS IS TO BE EGYPTIAN CONFERENCE ONLY. FAYEZ ALSO SAID THAT SOME ISRAELI JOURNALISTS HAD SHOWN UP AND SPOKEN TO HIM DURING CONFERENCE AND ASKED WHEN ISRAELI SCIENTISTS COULD WORK WITH EGYPTIANS. FAYEZ SAID "AFTER COMPREHENSIVE PEACE".
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YMAT SEPARATE CEREMONIES, VP, PM AMB AND OTHERS VIEWED A REMOTE SENSING DISPLAY AT CONFERENCE OPENING SESSION AND USAID DIR., SCIATT AND AID SGT OFFICER PARTICIPATED IN FORMAL OPENING OF REMOTE SENSING CENTER. MIN. HILMI SUBSTITUTED FOR PM WHO WAS TO OPEN CENTER ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT, BUT HAD DEATH IN FAMILY. REMOTE SENSING CENTER OPENING REC'VD GOOD PRESS COVERAGE. ARTICLES BEING POUCHED TO OES.

7. COMMENT CONFERENCE THIS YEAR GOT OFF TO A BETTER ORGANIZED START THAN LAST, WHEN SPEECHES WERE ENDLESS. HOWEVER, ABU AL AZM WAS LITTLE DISAPPOINTED, IF UNDERSTANDING, THAT SENIOR US INVITED GUESTS COULD NOT COME. SOME ATTENDANCE WOULD HAVE BEEN USEFUL PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF GOOD WORDS FOR US COOPERATION AND FOR NSF/AID SUPPORT OF REMOTE SENSING CENTER. OTHERS HOWEVER, MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO COME SINCE DR. BOUTROS OF JORDAN TOLD SCIATT HE HAD BEEN ASKED ONLY FOR DAYS BEFORE MTG.

8. ALTHOUGH HEAVY GOE VIP TURNOUT PROBABLY BECAUSE OF PEACE THEME AND TRIBUTES PAID, NONETHELESS S&T DOES ENJOY THE RECOGNITION OF - EGYPTIAN POLICY MAKERS AND PLANNERS. SOME PHYSICIANS, SCIENTISTS & ENGINEERS ARE ALSO PROMINENT IN POLITICS AND OTHER SECTORS OF

GOVT.

PRES. SADAT HAS, ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS REFERRED TO ITS ROLE IN
DEVELOPMENT AND IT IS NOT UNUSUAL FOR CONFERENCES TO BE
OPENED WITH A SPEECH IN HIS NAME. THE DIFFICULTY HERE SEEMS TO
BE NOT RECOGNITION BUT APPLICATION. EILTS

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